WOODWARD BUILDING
117 N. Howard Street
Spokane, WA 99201

Photos taken in 2002
Spokane Register of Historic Places
Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Sixth Floor
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

1. Name of Property

Historic Name
WOODWARD BUILDING

2. Location

Street & Number 117 N. Howard Street
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99201
Parcel Number 35184.2501

3. Classification

<table>
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4. Owner of Property

Name Gregory D. Green
Street & Number 117 N. Howard Street
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99201
Telephone Number/E-mail (509) 688-8000 and email madams@oneeighty.com

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number 1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99260
County Spokane

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey
Date Federal ___ State ___ County ___ Local 1979
Depository for Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office
FINAL DRAFT 18 SEPT. 2002
7. Description
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

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Narrative description of present and original physical appearance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance
Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Criteria--mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Spokane Register listing:

- **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory history.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References
Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one (1) acre.
Verbal Boundary Description: Resurvey & Addition to Spokane Falls South 23 feet Lot 1 Block 14.
Verbal Boundary Justification: Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Title</th>
<th>Linda Yeomans, Consultant</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone Number/E-mail</td>
<td>509-456-3828 or <a href="mailto:lyeomans@qwest.net">lyeomans@qwest.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Street, City, State, Zip Code</td>
<td>501 West 27th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 September 2002</td>
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12. Additional Documentation

Map: Spokane City/County plat map, 2002
Photographs and Slides: 7 B&W prints, 7 color slides, 1 B&W photocopy of 1929 print
13. Signature of Owner(s)

[Signature]

14. For Official Use Only:

Date Received: __________________________ Attest: __________________________

Date Heard: ___________________________ City Clerk

Commission Decision: ___________________________ Approved as to Form: ___________________________

Council/Board Action: ___________________________ Assistant City Attorney

Date: ___________________________

We hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spokane

or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

[Signature]

OFFICER, City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Statement
Built in 1890, the Woodward Building is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Spokane. The building faces east on North Howard Street between West Riverside and Main Avenues in the heart of Spokane’s downtown business district. Rising three stories, the brick masonry building features a decorative parapet, pressed brick veneer, arched second-story windows, and a symmetrical facade with Romanesque Revival-style influence. The street-level storefront, separate first-floor entrance to upper story rooms, and second-floor fenestration patterns on the building’s facade help convey its original use as a commercial business building and a single room occupancy hotel. Especially above street level, the Woodward Building retains excellent exterior integrity in location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

PRESENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION--2002

Building Site
The Woodward Building is located on the south 23 feet of Lot 1, Block 14 in the resurveyed Spokane Falls Addition. The property abuts a paved alley on the south, Howard Street on the east, and is attached to a three-story brick building (built in 1891 and rebuilt in 1948) on the west, and a multi-story reinforced concrete building and skywalk complex (built in 1973) on the north. The Woodward Building is surrounded by mostly commercial structures built during the 1950s-1970s and by a pedestrian mall and parking garage constructed in the 1966. The footprint of the Woodward Building follows a rectangular plan and measures 23 feet wide and 60 feet deep.

Building Exterior
The Woodward Building rises 40 feet and is constructed of 18-inch-thick brick load-bearing walls that are supported by a brick and basalt stone foundation. The roof is flat and is covered in layers of built-up tar around an original vaulted skylight located in the center of the roof surface. The facade of the building is clad in red pressed brick veneer over brick masonry walls and has a symmetrical design with corner pilasters, a street-level storefront, and second and third-floor windows. The facade features a parapet with molded concrete coping and a corbelled brick cornice. The parapet is flanked by two-story pilasters that are capped with cast sandstone coping embellished with decorative *rinçau*. Two one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows with granite lintels illuminate the third floor. A granite belt course, accentuated with brick corbells, is located under the windows and spans the width of the building between the corner pilasters. Below the corbelled belt course are two one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows with round-arched transoms on the second floor. Round-arched granite lintels with keystones cap the transom windows. A dog-toothed-brick, inset panel is located between the windows. A granite belt course is located under the windows and separates the
second story from the first-story. The facade at street level reveals a contemporary, compatible design with a recessed corner entrance supported by a single cast iron column on the southeast corner of the building, an entrance on the north end of the facade, and a plate-glass storefront window between the two doors. The transom space above the storefront window and the corner entrance is clad in vertical board siding. Exterior lights and signage are attached to the siding. Used brick veneer clads the space above and around the entrance on the north end of the facade. A fabric awning is located above the entrance. The bulkhead below the storefront window is clad in ceramic tile. The southeast iron corner post, the north entrance to the upper floors, and the configuration for the storefront bay are original. The materials that cover the storefront are not original except for the iron corner post.

The south elevation of the Woodward Building is exposed along a narrow, paved alley that bisects Block 14 from east to west. The building features exterior brick cladding laid in common bond. The first floor brick cladding is painted while the second and third stories are unpainted. A stepped brick parapet with molded concrete coping accentuates the roofline. The second and third stories each have five symmetrically spaced vertical windows with segmental arches. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash units except for the two units: A round window unit is located in the original rectangular window frame on the west end of the second floor, and the window next east was replaced with a metal door as required by Spokane Uniform Building Codes for purpose of fire retardation. The door opens to a metal fire escape that is attached to the south elevation of the building. The first floor has five segmentally arched windows. Three of the windows are block glass and two are covered with plywood and brick infill. Each window has a granite lugsill. Four segmentally arched windows protected with wrought-iron grilletwork illuminate the basement.

Building Interior
The Spokane County Tax Assessor’s files record the total interior space of the building at 5,520 square feet with 1,380 square feet on each floor and in the basement. The recessed entrance on the southeast corner has a wood and glass door that opens to a large room currently used as a restaurant. The floor is made of poured concrete, the south wall is exposed brick masonry, the north and west walls are sheet-rocked, and the ceiling retains original wood beams and decorative punched-metal ceiling panels. A kitchen, storage, and lavatory is located behind a wall that separates the service areas from the dining room.

The street-level entrance located on the north end of the facade has a wood-paneled door that opens to a single stairway and an exposed brick masonry interior north wall. The stairway rises to the second and third floors. A glass and metal skylight illuminates the third floor above the stair landing. The second and third floors are finished with wall-to-
wall carpet, honey-colored fir and pine woodwork, and track lighting. Cubicles and office space are contained on each floor along with small kitchenettes and storage space. A bathroom is located on the second floor. A full, unfinished basement lies below the first floor. The basement floor is constructed of poured concrete and the perimeter walls are exposed basalt rock.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT CHANGES
The original exterior design and materials of the Woodward Building are retained on the second and third floors of the building except for the windows. All but one of the original windows were removed in 1971 and were replaced with architecturally incompatible aluminum-sash plate-glass units (only one original window exists on the third floor at the west end of the south elevation). In 2002, the current owner of the Woodward Building replaced the incompatible units installed in 1971 with seven 1/1, double-hung, wood-sash windows that mimic the one original third-floor window in materials, size, reveal depth, and configuration. A west-end second-floor window was replaced with a round unit and the window next east was replaced with a metal door as required by building codes for fire protection.

The exterior street-level storefront of the building has changed since it was originally built in 1890. Spokane building permit #32153 dated 1 June 1923 indicates the street-level storefront and first floor interior of the building were remodeled to accommodate a change in use from saloon to restaurant. A photograph taken in 1929 pictures the interior of the first floor with a view along the north wall to the east windows located on the facade of the building. The photograph reveals multi-paned storefront windows with transom units and a recessed, angled entrance on the southeast corner of the building’s facade. The photograph also pictures a finished false ceiling that covers the original ceiling beams and punched-metal ceiling panels. The restaurant had a built-in lunch counter that spanned the depth of the building along the north wall. Splayed pilasters accentuated the north wall behind the lunch counter.

The exterior storefront and interior of the first floor were changed in 1950 to accommodate a shoe store. According to Spokane building permits, the storefront facade was remodeled again in 1971, and finally to the current design in 2000.

According to historical records and city directory listings, the second and third floors of the building were originally designed with single occupancy hotel rooms. In 1971, the single occupancy rooms were removed and the interior was rebuilt as office space. In 2001, the second and third floors were remodeled again to accommodate office space, storage rooms, a bathroom, and two kitchenettes.
**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary Statement**

Surrounded by a sea of encroaching new development, the Woodward Building, built in 1890, is one of the oldest commercial structures existing in downtown Spokane. Influenced by the Romanesque Revival style, the building was designed as a single room occupancy hotel (SRO) and commercial building by Herman Preusse, one of Spokane’s most prolific architects. Exterior fenestration patterns and documented historical use identify the building as an example of the property type “single room occupancy hotel” as described in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) “Single Room Occupancy Hotels in the Central Business District of Spokane, Washington, 1900 to 1910.” The building was built for Minnesota real estate investor Lafayette Woodward and was listed in city directories as the Woodward Building. For 51 years from 1890 to 1941, the building served as an SRO with hotel rooms on the second and third floors and various saloons and theaters on the first floor, followed by first-floor markets, cafes, and restaurants after prohibition. The arrangement provided shelter and sustenance for the building’s residents. From 1943 to 1960, the second and third floors served as the exclusive clubhouse location for the American Shanghai Club. Through its design and use as an SRO, and its association with the development and settlement of Spokane’s central business district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Woodward Building is architecturally and historically significant and eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

**Historical Context**

**Early Spokane**

Spokane grew quickly from its early settlement as a frontier town in 1873 to a small but busy, bustling city by 1889. That same year on August 4th, a huge fire engulfed 30 blocks of Spokane’s central business district, destroying nearly every home and business block in its path. No sooner had the ashes cooled than eager bankers, businessmen, and builders began reconstructing the city’s downtown core. Reconstruction was frenzied and was not only due to the fire but to the masses of men, women, and children who began to flock to Spokane in search of employment and a better life. Commercial business blocks were rebuilt with single occupancy hotel rooms on the upper floors to help house the
throngs of homeless working-class people. One of the first buildings erected just after 
the fire was the Woodward Building.

The French Block
Before the Woodward Building was constructed, the building site was occupied by the 
French Block, one of Spokane’s first small, three-story brick masonry buildings (Hyslop, 
page 115). The French Block was built in 1883 for Henry French, an early Spokane 
businessman who helped “establish the first stage line to the Coeur d’Alenes,” the mining 
district located east of Spokane (Edwards, page 310-311). On July 28, 1888, Lafayette 
Woodward, a businessman who lived in Minneapolis, purchased the French Block for 
$16,000. Thirteen months later, the Great Fire of 1889 ruined Woodward’s investment, 
destroying the French Block as well as the adjoining Frankfurt Block (next north) and all 
of the surrounding downtown buildings.

The Woodward Building
Within a year after the fire, Woodward commissioned Spokane architect Herman Preusse 
to design a three-story brick masonry building to replace the French Block on the narrow 
lot. The new structure was called the Woodward Building. The building’s first use was 
as an SRO with single occupancy hotel rooms on the second and third floors and a saloon 
on the first floor. The bar was owned by John Hackleman and Thomas Garrison and was 
called the “Howard Saloon” in recognition of its location on Howard Street. The 1892 
city directory lists saloon keeper John Hackleman as one of the building’s first hotel 
residents.

From 1895 to 2002, the interior commercial space on the first floor and the single 
occupancy hotel rooms on the second and third floors of the Woodward Building were 
leased by various individuals and business concerns. The first floor was occupied by 
saloons and bars for 21 years from 1890 to 1911. In 1895, the building’s first-floor 
saloon was managed by Oloff Lund, followed by Edward Duffy and William Hill in 
1896. They were listed in the city directory as proprietors of Duffy and Hill’s Saloon 
which was advertised as a bar, cafe, and club. In 1897, Duffy partnered with John D. 
Butler and together they managed Duffy and Butler’s Saloon. Located in the center of 
activity in downtown Spokane, the Woodward Block was often a place of spurious 
excitement in early city history as noted in Exploring Spokane’s Past; Tour of Historic 
Sites.

Spokane was a rough town even in the late nineties. In the 
summer of 1897 a well-known New York writer, Hamlin Garland, 
came to town to get some Western color for the stories he was writing. 
When asked where to look for some real “Wild West” action, Marshal 
Joel Warren told him just to watch the street in front of his hotel.
As the story goes, that Saturday night a Texan came out of Duffy and Butler’s Saloon and started shooting up the town. He gunned down two elderly men before the Marshal could get there. A bullet clipped a button off Warren’s coat before he could draw his gun. Since the Texan kept firing, the Marshal had to shoot him. As the body was carried away, Garland came out of the Grand Hotel [located on the northwest corner of Main and Howard], suitcase in hand. “Did you see that?” [Marshal] Warren asked. “See it? I darn near felt it. Those bullets were bouncing all over the lobby,” the writer answered and took the next train back to New York City (page 46-47).

The saloon business continued to be lucrative in downtown Spokane. In 1899, John Butler began a partnership with Frank M. Tibballs. Together they owned and operated the Butler and Tibballs Saloon in the first floor of the Woodward Building for 10 years. In 1909, the saloon space was leased and managed by Axel Erickson and John Solverson who called their establishment the “117 Bar” (after the building’s street address number, “117”). A listing in the 1909 city directory advertised the 117 Bar as the repository of “choice wines, liquors, and cigars.”

Perhaps in reaction to pre-prohibition unrest, the first floor of the building was no longer listed as a saloon in 1911. Instead, the space was leased to the Tsar Theater Company. In 1912, the name changed to the Isis Theater which was an entertainment venue for then-modern “moving pictures.” The Isis Theater remained in operation until 1914.

The year 1915 marks the beginning of food service establishments that occupied space in the first floor of the building for the next 35 years. Michael Guidotti Meats leased the first floor from 1915 through 1917 for $750. S. J. Berg and Olaf Kammen operated a restaurant beginning in 1917. In 1923, the first floor of the building, called the Carolina Cafe, was remodeled for a reported cost of $10,000 (Spokane building permit #32153). A photograph taken in 1929 pictures the interior of the cafe appointed with a stooled lunch counter on the north wall and tables and chairs along the south wall. During this time, the Woodward Building was purchased by Jimmie Durkin, one of early Spokane’s notorious bartenders and saloon keepers. Unlike his much-publicized saloons of the early 1900s, Durkin maintained a quiet restaurant business on the first floor of the Woodward Building. In 1934, the restaurant was leased by Woodworth’s Cafe with a city directory advertisement that said, “Its Different.” From 1939 to 1950, the Hil-Mar Dinette, owned and operated by Hildur Mank and Martha Meyer, occupied the first-floor.
Beginning in 1950, the street-level use of the Woodward Building changed from food service to the fashion and garment trade. The first floor interior and street-level storefront of the building were remodeled for $3000 (Spokane building permit #99584) to accommodate Leon’s Shoe Store which occupied the space from 1950 to 1960. After that, the first floor was leased for a number of years by various clothiers including Paul’s Men’s Shop, Beaute Fare Imports, Four Doors East Women’s Clothing, Signature’s Club Fashions, and Bridal Collections. In 1995 Street Music occupied the first floor, changing the use again. In 2000, Soulful Soups remodeled the space to accommodate a restaurant.

From the time it was built in 1890 to 1941, the second and third floors of the Woodward Building were used continuously as furnished single occupancy hotel rooms. A separate entrance at 117-1/2 opened to a stairway that led to the second and third floors. The entrance was located at street level on the building’s northeast facade. The upstairs rooms were collectively known by various names including the Crystal Hotel, the Kingston Hotel, the State Hotel, and the Moose Hotel which was in operation for 28 years from 1913 to 1941.

For the next six years, the rooms stood vacant. Beginning in 1947, the American Shanghai Club leased the second and third floors of the Woodward Building for $150 a month. The rooms were used as the club’s headquarters and meeting hall and may have housed homeless club members. Barr Yepp was elected the first club president and Francis Cael was named treasurer. The club leased the rooms for 17 years until 1960.

From 1960 to 1971, the second and third floors of the building were vacant. In 1971-1972, the hotel rooms were removed. The space was remodeled as offices and occupied by Tan Brookie Kundig Architects. In 2001 the building was purchased by Spokane telecommunications specialist Gregory Green. The second floor is leased office space and the third floor is occupied by OneEighty, one of Green’s communication businesses.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE—Category A**

**Architectural Integrity**

The Woodward Building was designed by Herman Preusse, “one of the earliest practicing architects in Spokane” who had “the distinction of holding more contracts for buildings after the 1889 fire than any other architect” (EWSHS, page 42). Preusse was born and educated in Germany and was influenced by work in his step-father’s architectural firm. Preusse studied at the college of architecture at Holzminden and gained practical experience in Germany, Chicago, California, and Kansas before coming to Spokane in 1882. Much of his pre-1889 fire work was destroyed but existing buildings designed by Preusse in Spokane include the Fernwell, Great Eastern/Peyton, Bodie/1889, and
the Woodward Building. In partnership with fellow German architect Julius Zittel in 1893, Preusse rendered designs for the Armory, Bump/Carlyle Hotel, Gonzaga Administration Building, Carnegie Library, St. Aloysius Church, Holy Names Academy, Columbia Building, and Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral located in Spokane. Preusse’s designs are clearly the work of a master and are a significant contribution to the historic building stock of Spokane.

**Historical Integrity**

Associated with working-class housing and the rapid growth of Spokane from 1890 to 1910, the Woodward Building is one of Spokane’s oldest single room occupancy hotels and served as a typical SRO for 51 years. Upper level exterior fenestration patterns, street-level merchandise bays, a separate street-level facade entrance that led to upper-story hotel rooms, and documented history of the building help convey the identity and original use of the Woodward Building as a good example of the property type “single room occupancy hotels” as described in the Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) “Single Room Occupancy Hotels in the Central Business District of Spokane, Washington, 1900 to 1910.” The MPD defines SROs as “unreinforced masonry structures of two or more stories, with commercial bays on the ground or street-level, and upper floors consisting primarily of single rooms...” Typical for SROs, a separate exterior entrance, adjacent to the building’s street-level merchandise bays, opened to stairs that led to hotel rooms located on the upper floors. Alluding to the mass destruction of Spokane’s central business district in 1889, the MPD stated that “following the disastrous Fire of 1889, laborers, carpenters and architects poured into Spokane, resulting in one of the most rapid rebuildings experienced by any fire-gutted city in the West. Working-class housing must have been among the first structures to rise up from the ashes...”

The Woodward Block was one of the first buildings constructed after the 1889 fire. It symbolizes the city’s rebirth and frenzied building boom that spawned an overwhelming influx of immigrant and working-class people who arrived in Spokane between 1890 and 1910, propelling the city’s population to exceed 100,000. Local historian Orville Pratt said that “so many homeless men were thronging in that the hotels and lodging houses could not care for them. Many slept on chairs or floors in hotels and saloons.” Working-class housing was at a premium and many commercial buildings were constructed with single room occupancy hotels on the upper floors.

Over 500 buildings were erected in Spokane between 1889 and 1893 for the four years following the 1889 fire, but less than 25 of these buildings exist in Spokane’s central business district. From the 1890-1893 post-fire building boom, the Woodward Building is one of the few commercial buildings that exists. It is compared to other similar existing
buildings located in downtown Spokane. They include the Levy Block (1892), the Bennet Block (1890), and the Star (1892) and Rima (1890) buildings (next north of the Bennet). All of the buildings exist with good exterior architectural integrity, share similar size, facade designs and building materials, and all once served as SROs. Other post-fire buildings such as the Miller Block and the Merton Block were also built in 1890 and operated as SROs. In contrast, they are much larger structures than the diminutive Woodward Building.

The Woodward Building is the oldest three-story brick masonry building remaining on Block 14 and in the surrounding area. The Sosco Block (built in 1890) and Frankfurt Block (1890, 1898) were located next north and adjacent to the Woodward Building. The Squier & Bernham Block (1890) was located on the northwest corner of Block 14. Facing Wall Street, the First Federal Savings & Loan Building (1891, 1948) was sited behind and west of the Woodward Building.

After they were built, many changes occurred to the buildings around the Woodward Building. The First Federal building was altered and rebuilt with five stories in 1948 and succeeding years. The other three buildings on Block 14 were demolished in 1971 and replaced by the Washington Mutual Bank Building in 1973. In addition, all of the historic building stock once located across the street from the Woodward Building on Howard Street between Main and Riverside Avenues were demolished and replaced with the Fidelity Savings & Loan building which was built in 1952, and with the Parkade Plaza and Parkade Parking Garage which were built in 1966. Late 19th and early 20th-century buildings that were located south of the Woodward Building were demolished and replaced with one large commercial building (Newberry Block) built in 1951. New construction in the central business district surrounding the Woodward Building continues to encroach on historic structures and threaten their existence.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Spokane County Assessor’s records, building permits, warranty deeds.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION
All black & white photographs/photocopies taken by consultant in 2002.

Photo 1  Woodward Building: east facade.
Photo 2  Woodward Building: east facade.
Photo 3  Woodward Building: south elevation next to alley.
Photo 4  Woodward Building: southeast street-level entrance.
Photo 5  Woodward Building: parapet wall on east facade.
Photo 6  Woodward Building: second-story window on south elevation.
Photo 7  Woodward Building: viewed at an angle from Riverside and Howard, looking northwest, photocopy of 1932 photograph.
Photo 8  Woodward Building: view of first-floor interior, looking east, photocopy of 1929 photograph.
Photos 1 and 2

Photo 3  South elevation of the building along alley.  Photo 2002.
Photo 4  East elevation.  Southeast corner entrance of building.
WOODWARD BUILDING

Photo 5  East facade of building; parapet detail.
Photo 6  South elevation of building; window detail.
Photo 7

Photocopy of 1932 (Libby) photograph of Howard Street looking north from Riverside Avenue. Woodward Building is just behind John Little sign which is nest left of streetcar.
Photo 8  Photocopy of 1929 (Libby) photograph of The Carolina Café in the first floor of the Woodward Building. Looking east to front of building.